

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 081635

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: WHO, IS, ID, XF

SUBJ: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF
EXPERTS LOSES INDONESIAN MEMBER

1. WHO DIRECTOR GENERAL MAHLER IN CABLE OF MARCH 28 HAS
INFORMED US MEMBER OF WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD AS FOLLOWS:
"HAVE HONOR INFORM YOU THAT INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOTI-
FIED ME DECISION TO RELINQUISH ITS PARTICIPATION IN SPECIAL
COMMITTEE EXPERTS TO STUDY HEALTH SITUATION INHABITANTS
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OCCUPIED TERRITORIES MIDDLE EAST COMPOSED OF INDONESIA,
ROMANIA AND SENEGAL. THE TWO COMMITTEE MEMBERS MEETING IN
GENEVA HAVE INFORMED ME THAT DUE TO THESE NEW CIRCUMSTANCES
THEY CONSIDER THEMSELVES FOR TIME BEING UNABLE TO FULFILL
THEIR MANDATE UNDER RESOLUTIONS WHA26.56, 38.37. TAKING
INTO ACCOUNT SHORT TIME LAPSE BEFORE BOARD'S NEXT SESSION IN
MAY AND IN AGREEMENT WITH CHAARMAN OF BOARD I CONSIDER IT

VERY DIFFYCULT TO CONVENE EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF BOARD IN VIEW OF REPLACING WITHDRAWN COMMITTEE MEMBER IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 6 RULE OF PROCEDURE EXECUTIVE BOARD. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING YOUR VIEWS IN THIS RESPECT."

2. INDONESIA'S DROPPING OUT OF THREE-MEMBER SPECIAL COMMITTEE IS REGRETTABLE IF ONLY BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTY WHO HAD IN CONSTITUTING THIS COMMITTEE IN 1973. PROCEDURE FOR DESIG-

NATING REPLACEMENT WILL PROBABLY BE AS FOLLOWS. EXECUTIVE BOARD, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO MEET IMMEDIATELY AFTER NEXT SESSION OF WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY (MAY 8 - 24), WILL APPOINT AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO APPROACH MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WITH VIEW TO FINDING SUITABLE CANDIDATES. BOARD WOULD CONSIDER AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT AT FOLLOWING SESSION, IN JANUARY 1979. INDONESIA'S DECISION IS DOUBLY UNFORTUNATE IN VIEW OF FACT THAT THIS YEAR ISRAEL WAS PREPARED TO BE FULLY COOPERATIVE WITH THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN ITS WORK.

3. FYI SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S MOST RECENT MANDATE, FROM 30TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY IN 1977, WAS TO STUDY HEALTH CONDITIONS OF ARAB POPULATION IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND REPORT TO THIS YEAR'S ASSEMBLY. ISSUE OF HEALTH CONDITIONS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES HAS REGULARLY APPEARED ON WHA AGENDA, AND LAST YEAR'S RESOLUTION, IN RENEWING SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S MANDATE, RAISED THREAT OF INVOKING SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL
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UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF WHO CONSTITUTION. ARTICLE 7 INVOLVES "SUSPENSION OF VOTING PRIVILEGES AND SERVICES TO WHICH A MEMBER IS ENTITLED" IN "EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES." USE OF ARTICLE 7 POWERS BY WHA AGAINST ISRAEL WOULD OF COURSE BE STRONGLY RESISTED BY USG AND WOULD HAVE VERY NEGATIVE IMPACT ON CONGRESS. END FYI.

4. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT ASSEMBLY IS LIKELY TO ACCEPT, ALTHOUGH WITH USUAL BITTER EXCHANGES, A REPORT FROM DR. MAHLER ANNOUNCING INDONESIA'S WITHDRAWAL FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND OUTLINING STEPS FOR NOMINATING NEW MEMBER. HOWEVER, ASSEMBLY'S REACTION WOULD BE HARDER TO PREDICT IF INDONESIAN DELEGATION CHOSE TO LAY BLAME FOR ITS DECISION AT ISRAEL'S DOORSTEP. WHILE DEPARTMENT HAS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS IS INDONESIAN INTENTION, AND NO INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT HAS PROMPTED INDONESIAN DECISION TO DROP OUT, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW HOW INDONESIAN DELEGATION WILL EXPLAIN MATTERS TO WHA.

5. FOR DJAKARTA: EMBASSY SHOULD USE AS MUCH OF FOREGOING AS IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE IN INFORMAL APPROACH TO INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES AIMED AT DRAWING THEM OUT ON THIS SUBJECT AND

CONVEYING OUR CONCERNS. DECISION TO MAKE FORMAL DEMARCHE
MAY COME LATER.

6. FOR GENEVA: MISSION SHOULD CONVEY TO DR. MAHLER ON
BEHALF OF ALTERNATE US MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE BOARD, DR. ROBERT
DE CAIRES, OUR AGREEMENT WITH VIEW OF MAHLER AND OF CHAIRMAN
BUTERA OF EXECUTIVE BOARD (WHO ARE JOINTLY EMPOWERED UNDER
RULE 6 OF BOARD'S RULES OF PROCEDURE TO CALL SPECIAL SES-
SIONS OF BOARD) THAT CONVENING OF SPECIAL SESSION WOULD BE
VERY DIFFICULT IN VIEW OF SHORT TIME REMAINING BEFORE

ASSEMBLY AND BOARD SCHEDULED TO MEET IN REGULAR SESSION.
MISSION SHOULD ALSO REQUEST MAHLER'S VIEWS ON REASON FOR
INDONESIA'S DECISION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR FORTHCOMING
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ASSEMBLY DISCUSSION.

7. FOR TEL AVIV - EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM ISRAELI AUTHORI-
TIES OF FOREGOING AND REPORT REACTION. COOPER

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